



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 21, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT

Sarah Holsapple
Public Information Officer
Department of Public Works
Email: sarah.holsapple@indy.gov
Office: 327-4669
Cell: 223-1375

CITY BRINGS SEWERS TO MORE THAN 1,200 HOMES IN 2010

Mayor Credits Program for Enhancing the City

INDIANAPOLIS – In 2010, more than 1,200 homes in seven Indianapolis neighborhoods received sewer service through the City's Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP). The Department of Public Works (DPW) worked to eliminate septic systems and install sanitary sewers throughout Indianapolis. In 2011, the City plans to complete six STEP projects, which will result in the elimination of approximately 1,100 septic systems. In addition, construction of sanitary sewers will be underway in 14 other project areas in 2011.

"Becoming one of the Midwest's most livable cities means enhancing the quality of life in every neighborhood," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "Through STEP, we are repairing problems that cause unclean, unsafe and unhealthy conditions for people across Indianapolis. We're aggressively and efficiently working now to fix this and help make Indianapolis an even better place to call home."

Septic systems have a limited life and eventually fail. In addition, the soil types in Marion County are poor for septic waste absorption. As a result, human waste leaches into groundwater, back yards and neighborhood ditches and streams. Failing septic systems are linked to unsafe levels of *E. coli* in many neighborhood streams and ditches.

Under the direction of Mayor Ballard, the City has an aggressive schedule to eliminate more septic systems than any other time in the City's history. Through the STEP program, the City anticipates eliminating 7,000 septic systems and constructing sanitary sewers from 2009 through 2013.

Neighborhoods receiving sewers in 2010 included areas near:

- Post Road and Ferguson Road
- Fox Hill Drive and Hoover Road
- Meridian Street and Stop 11 Road
- Banta Road and Southport Road
- Epler Avenue and Meridian Street
- Southeastern Avenue and Troy Road
- Bangor Drive and Delaware Street

Project areas not only received new sanitary sewers but manholes, street resurfacing and incidental drainage improvements. Homeowners in STEP project areas pay a one-time connection fee for the construction of City sewers and monthly sewer charges. In addition, STEP projects are funded through sanitary sewer user fees. STEP project costs for these projects in 2010 totaled approximately \$25 million.

“Failing septic systems are a health hazard to our City,” said DPW Director David Sherman. “The health and safety problems created by septic systems have plagued our City for far too long, and more work remains in the years ahead. We’re working in neighborhoods throughout the City to eliminate this environmental hazard.”

RebuildIndy is Mayor Ballard’s initiative to transform the City through investment in infrastructure improvements to restore deteriorating thoroughfares, residential streets, sidewalks and bridges, as well as address neighborhood drainage and flooding issues and demolish unsalvageable abandoned homes that pose a public safety threat to neighborhoods.

For more information about the RebuildIndy program, visit www.indy.gov/RebuildIndy or follow us on Twitter @RebuildIndy. To suggest a RebuildIndy project in your area, call the Mayor’s Action Center at (317) 327-4MAC (4622).

###